

## PATENT

Serial No. 09/703,699

Attorney Docket No. 2000-0020 (1014-068)

## AMENDMENTS

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) In an Internet Protocol(IP) data network comprised of a plurality of interconnected IP data switching systems, a method comprised of:
  - a-receiving at a first IP data switching system a plurality of IP data packets;
  - b-tabulating at said first IP data switching system at least the number of IP data packets received from a particular IP source address during a first time interval, thereby forming a count of IP data packets from a particular source;
  - c-storing said count of IP data packets in a memory device for subsequent processing;
  - d-determining that a time-based data traffic measure from said particular IP source exceeds a predetermined threshold; and
  - e-responsive to said determining step, sending a message to a second IP data switching system, said message adapted to instruct said second IP data switching system to discard packets from said particular IP source, wherein said second IP data switching system is not a source system for said packets.
2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further including the steps of:
  - d-reading said count of IP data packets from said memory device; and
  - e-selectively discarding IP data packets received at said first IP data switching system that originated from said particular source.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein said IP data switching system is an IP data router switching system.

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4. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein said step of selectively discarding IP data packets includes the step of denying reception of IP data packets from a router based upon a source address in IP data packets upon the determination that the count of IP data packets from a source address exceeds a threshold value.

5. (Currently Amended) In an Internet Protocol (IP) data network comprised of a plurality of interconnected IP data switching systems, a method comprised of:

~~a-sending-receiving~~ a plurality of IP data packets ~~from-at~~ a first IP data switching system ~~to-a-second-IP-data-switching-system~~;

~~b-tabulating~~ at said first IP data switching system at least the number of IP data packets ~~sent-routable~~ to a particular IP destination address during a first time interval, thereby forming a count of IP data packets ~~sent-routable~~ to a particular IP destination address;

~~e-storing~~ said count of IP data, packets ~~sent-routable~~ to a particular IP destination address in a memory device for subsequent processing;

determining that a time-based data traffic measure for packets routable to the particular IP destination exceeds a predetermined threshold; and

responsive to said determining step, sending a message to a second IP data switching system, said message adapted to instruct said second IP data switching system to discard packets routable to said particular IP destination, wherein said second IP data switching system is not a source system for said packets.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5 further including the steps of:

~~d-reading~~ said count of IP data packets from said memory device;

~~e-selectively inhibiting the transmission of IP data packets from said first IP data switching system to-said-second-IP-data-switching-system-when the number of IP packets~~

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~~from routable to said first particular IP data switching system destination~~ exceeds a predetermined number.

7. (Original) The method of claim 5 wherein at least one of said first and second IP data switching systems is an IP data router switching system.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6 wherein said step of selectively inhibiting the transmission of IP data packets includes the step of sending a message to a specific router to discard messages either received from or sent to a specific IP address, the specific router not a source for said messages.

9. (New) A method comprising:

in an Internet Protocol (IP) data network that comprises a plurality of interconnected IP data switching systems at a first IP data switching system, determining that a time-based data traffic measure from the particular IP source exceeds a predetermined threshold; and

responsive to said determining step, sending a message to a second IP data switching system, said message adapted to instruct said second IP data switching system to discard packets from said particular IP source, wherein said second IP data switching system is not a source system for said packets.

10. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

overwriting packets in a buffer responsive to said determining step.

11. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:

providing said time-based data traffic measure to a user via a user interface.

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12. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
sending said message to a sub-plurality of IP data switching systems.
13. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
ignoring incoming packets from said particular IP source.
14. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
determining said predetermined threshold.
15. (New) The method of claim 9, further comprising:  
automatically polling a memory for information indicative of said time-based data traffic measure.
16. (New) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
overwriting packets in a buffer responsive to said determining step.
17. (New) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
providing said data traffic rate to a user via a user interface.
18. (New) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
sending said message to a sub-plurality of IP data switching systems.
19. (New) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
ignoring incoming packets to said particular IP destination.

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20. (New) The method of claim 5, further comprising:  
determining said predetermined threshold.